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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1973

A. ELLIOT, M.D., D.P.H.

*County Medical Officer of Health*  
*Principal School Medical Officer*

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SENIOR STAFF – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER, PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

A. Elliott, M.D., D.P.H.

DEPUTY COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

V. Mary Collins, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

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G.P. Wallace, M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.	Mid Kent
E. Mary Allen, M.B., B.S.	West Kent
Eirwen Griffith, M.B., B.S.	Medway Towns
Rosemary C. Hayball, M.B., B.Chir.D.A.	North West Kent
Edith Heath, M.B., Ch.B.	Thanet

PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER

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DIRECTOR OF NURSING SERVICES

Dora E.C. Bradley, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D.

DIVISIONAL NURSING OFFICERS

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Anne Gilbert, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., H.V. Cert., N.D.N. Cert.	West Kent

PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

F. C. Woodruffe, T.D., M.I.S.W.

COUNTY HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. A. Warren, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

AMBULANCE OFFICER

J. A. Gillin

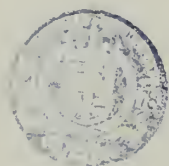
PRINCIPAL CHIROPODIST

C. H. Wicks, M.CH.S.



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## ANNUAL REPORT

### Vital Statistics

**POPULATION** – The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Administrative County at the middle of 1973 was 1,400,450 and this population is the basis of the rates quoted in this Report. Table 1 at the end of the Report shows the population in each area in the County: and from the Table it will be seen that 936,260 persons were resident in the urban areas, and 464,190 in the rural districts.

**BIRTHS** – The births of living children, registered during 1973, totalled 19,582. Male births numbered 10,261 female births 9,321.

The crude\* birth rates for the year were 14.2 (comparable rate † 14.5) in the urban districts, 13.5 (comparable rate 13.8) in the rural districts and 14.0 (comparable rate 14.3) in the County as a whole. The figure for England & Wales was 13.7.

The number of births, and the birth rates, in each sanitary district of the County, are set out in Table 1 at the end of this report.

The excess of births over deaths was 2,386 – 1,853 males and 533 females.

The sex-ratio of the births, on the figures shown above, represents a proportion of 110 males to 100 females.

**STILL-BIRTHS** – The number of still-births recorded during the year was 222. This number represents a proportion of 11 per thousand of all births in the County. This proportion may be compared with the rate for England and Wales of 12.

The rate of still-births (per thousand total live and still births) was 12 in urban and 9 in rural districts, and 10 in the County as a whole.

The number of still-births in each sanitary district of the County is shown in Table 1 at the end of this report.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY** – There were 299 deaths of infants under one year of age in Kent during the year, which represents an infantile mortality rate (number of deaths among children under one year of age per thousand live births) of 15. The infantile mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births is 15 and per 1,000 illegitimate births is 25.

These deaths of infants formed 1.7 per cent of the total deaths at all ages.

**NEO-NATAL MORTALITY** – There were 205 deaths of infants under four weeks of age during the year, which represents a neo-natal mortality rate (number of deaths among children under four weeks of age per thousand related live births) of 10.

**EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY** – There were 181 deaths of infants under one week during the year, which represents an early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) of 9.

**PERINATAL MORTALITY** – There were 403 stillbirths and deaths under one week combined during the year, which represents a perinatal mortality rate (deaths under one week and stillbirths combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) of 20.

Of the 19,582 births in the County, 1,298 were illegitimate, being 6.6 per cent. of the total.

**MATERNAL MORTALITY** – There were 3 maternal deaths (including abortion).

The rates in the different sanitary districts will be found in Table 1 at the end of this report.

**DEATHS** – The number of deaths registered in the County (i.e. the number of deaths of persons resident in Kent) during 1973 was 17,196. Male deaths totalled 8,408 and female deaths 8,788.

Crude death-rates were 13.0 for the urban areas, 10.7 for the rural districts, and 12.3 for the whole County.

The number of deaths in each sanitary district, and the deaths in age-groups, and by cause, are shown in Tables at the end of this report.

\*Crude birth and death-rates are the number of births or deaths per 1,000 of the population.

† For explanation see page 14 .

The principal causes of death in order of importance show little variation from year to year, and the following table shows the order of the principal causes in 1973, the number of deaths under each heading, the death-rate, and the percentage of each group to the total number of deaths from all causes:—

Cause of Death	1973		
	Number of Deaths	Number of deaths per 1,000 population	Percentage to the total number of deaths from all causes
Heart Disease .. .. .	5874	4.19	34.16
Cancer (all sites) .. .. .	3507	2.50	20.39
Other Circulatory Diseases .. .. .	3202	2.28	18.62
Pneumonia .. .. .	1464	1.05	8.51
Bronchitis and Emphysema .. .. .	725	0.52	4.22
Violence (all forms) .. .. .	515	0.37	2.99
Hypertensive Disease .. .. .	292	0.21	1.70
Other diseases of digestive system .. .. .	173	0.12	1.00
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	157	0.17	0.91
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions .. .. .	235	0.10	1.37
Diabetes .. .. .	143	0.01	0.83
Peptic Ulcer .. .. .	120	0.05	0.12
Influenza .. .. .	66	0.03	0.38
Tuberculosis (all forms) .. .. .	36	0.05	0.21
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	65	0.03	0.38
Asthma .. .. .	38	0	0.22
TOTALS .. .. .	16,512	11.79	96.02

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of notifications of infectious diseases in each of the sanitary districts in Kent is shown in Table 2 at the end of this report.

SMALLPOX — Once again no cases occurred during the year. It is now twenty seven years since the last case was notified.

SCARLET FEVER — There were 284 cases notified.

DIPHTHERIA -- There were no cases of diptheria reported in the County.

MEASLES — There were 7,830 cases reported, two deaths occurred.

WHOOPING COUGH — 90 cases were reported.

POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOENCEPHALITIS — There were no cases reported in the County.

Year	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Notifications Paralytic	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DEATHS	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM — 11 cases were reported during the year.



# MALIGNANT NEOPLASM

The following table shows the mortality from cancer recorded in Kent during the year.

Kent											% of Total Deaths from Cancer
URBAN											
Category											
	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	0.80
	" " Oesophagus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74	2.11
	" " Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	196	5.59
	" " Intestine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	344	9.81
	" " Larynx	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	0.43
	" " Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	634	18.08
	" " Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	276	7.87
	" " Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	2.59
	" " Prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102	2.91
	" " Leukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75	2.14
	Other Malignant Neoplasm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	707	20.16
	Benign and unspecified Neoplasm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	0.63
TOTAL										2,564	
DEATH RATE .. .. .										2.74	
RURAL											
Category											
	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	0.20
	" " Oesophagus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	0.68
	" " Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78	2.24
	" " Intestine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103	2.94
	" " Larynx	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	0.17
	" " Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	232	6.62
	" " Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104	2.97
	" " Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	0.94
	" " Prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	1.63
	" " Leukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	0.74
	Other Malignant Neoplasm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	267	7.61
	Benign and unspecified Neoplasm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	0.17
TOTAL										943	
DEATH RATE .. .. .										2.03	
TOTAL .. .. .										3,507	
DEATH RATE .. .. .										2.50	

The age-sex distribution of the deaths is shown below

	All ages	Per- centage	Under 1	1 to under 5	5 to under 15	15 to under 45	45 to under 65	65 and over
1973 M ..	1859	53.0	1	4	14	59	555	1,226
F ..	1648	47.0	1	3	9	64	527	1,044
TOTAL ..	3507	100.0	2	7	23	123	1,082	2,270

## DIPHTHERIA/WHOOPING COUGH/TETANUS IMMUNISATION

Facilities for immunisation were available at Child Health Clinics, doctors' surgeries and schools. The number of primary courses of triple antigen, diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus, completed in 1973 was 18,755, there were also 939 primary courses against diphtheria/tetanus and 1,350 against tetanus.

19,212 children received a reinforcing injection and of the children born in 1972 just over 61% had been immunised by the end of the year.

## VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

Facilities continued to be made available at County Clinics and by general practitioners and wherever possible the primary course is now given at the same time as the triple antigen, diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus, starting at six months of age, followed by reinforcing doses at school entry and on leaving school.

During the year 19,985 children received a primary course of vaccination against poliomyelitis and 17,533 had a reinforcing dose. Of the children born in 1972, 63% were immunised by the end of the year.

## VACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES

During the year 13,240 children were vaccinated against measles either at the nearest Child Health Clinic or by their own doctors, just over 63%.

## VACCINATION AGAINST RUBELLA

Consent forms were distributed in schools to all girls between the ages of 11 and 13 years offering vaccination against rubella either at school or by their own doctors.

## VACCINATION AGAINST YELLOW FEVER

During 1973, 1,350 persons attended the yellow fever vaccination clinic held weekly at the Health Department; the clinic was set up in 1960 at the request of the Department of Health.

## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The various services provided under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, have been maintained during the year.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### NOTIFICATIONS

During the year 214 persons were notified as suffering from tuberculosis. On the 31st December, 4,870 persons remained on the registers of medical officers of health. Summaries of notifications will be found on page 15.

### PROVISION FOR EXTRA FOODS

Once again extra foods in the form of milk, eggs and butter were supplied to certain persons suffering from tuberculosis on the recommendation of the chest physician.

### REHABILITATION

Persons suffering from inactive tuberculosis who are fit enough to undertake five hours' work a day can, on the recommendation of the chest physician, be admitted to rehabilitation units established at Preston Hall, Maidstone and Papworth Hall, Cambridge. At the end of 1973, no patients were receiving rehabilitation.

## KENT COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

This Council has continued to afford assistance to patients and their dependents in the form of extra milk, beds and bedding, clothing, holidays, materials for diversional therapy, finding suitable employment, fares to visit patients in sanatoria and hospitals, re-housing and removal expenses. The County Council make an annual grant for administrative expenses only.

## B.C.G. VACCINATION

During 1973, 14,916 schoolchildren aged 13 years and over were skin tested, 14,196 were found to be negative and 14,001 were vaccinated. All tuberculin positive children were referred to the chest physician concerned for further investigation.

As in former years, precautionary investigations of schoolchildren who had been in contact with known cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were continued, 275 children from 5 schools were skin tested of whom 103 were tuberculin positive and referred to the chest physician. Members of school staffs were also given an opportunity of attending for X-ray.

## ASCERTAINMENT OF CONTACTS

Contacts of persons known to be suffering from tuberculosis are persuaded by the health visitor to attend the chest clinics for examination.

## EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS KNOWN TO BE SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Sputum positive cases are not generally encouraged to return to work but if they do, every precaution is taken to ensure that there is no spread of infection. Where the previous employment is not considered suitable, the Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour, endeavours to find alternative employment or in certain cases the patient will undertake a course of training for work suitable to his condition.

## NURSING REQUISITES

There was a further increase in demand for equipment in the homes of chronic sick persons who are partially or wholly confined to bed and for short term acute illnesses. The demand for the special pads made in County Council Training Centres for the home nursing of incontinent patients also continued to increase.

## RENAL HAEMODIALYSIS

By the end of 1973 74 premises had been completed or were in the process of being completed, 12 having been completed during the year. 31 rooms are no longer being used some of which have now been dismantled.

## FLUORIDATION

No action has been taken the County Council to raise to one part/million the level of fluoride in public water supplies as a measure of preventive medicine to reduce the incidence of dental disease in children.

## VENERAL DISEASE

Two women social welfare workers are attached to the venereal disease clinics in the County. They are responsible for tracing contacts of patients attending the clinics and following up those who do not maintain attendances for treatment.

## HEALTH EDUCATION

Reliance continued to be placed usually on personal approaches by County staff such as doctors, dental surgeons, health visitors, midwives, nurses, welfare officers, etc. in the normal course of their duties. Lectures on various aspects of health education were given at schools by Departmental Medical Officers, and on request to various organisations.

## CERVICAL CYTOLOGY

By the end of 1973, 22 clinics all of which are staffed by members of the District Nursing Service who were trained in this work by senior staff, had been provided for the taking of cervical smears from women aged between 35 and 65 years. In general, the demand for the service from women has not been great, since during the year 6,064 smears were taken, of which 20 were positive. Many women do, of course, have their smears taken by their own doctors or at Family Planning Clinics. As a result of the scheme for the routine five year recall 9,244 recall letters were sent to women resulting in 1,607 applications for appointments at County Council clinics.

## DRIVING LICENCES – CASES REFERRED BY TAXATION LICENCES OFFICER

During the year 571 cases were reviewed where doubts arose as to the suitability, by reason of medical conditions, of the persons concerned to hold driving licences. In considering this number regard should be had to the issue in the year by the Council of 193,094 driving licences. A classification of the conditions reviewed is: –

<u>Epilepsy:</u>		Issued	271
		Refused	30
	313	Revoked	5
		Withdrawn	2
		Enquiry	5
<u>Diabetes Mellitis:</u>		Issued	53
	57	Revoked	2
		Enquiry	1
		Driving Test	1
<u>Cardiac Disease:</u>	38	Issued	38
<u>Mental Illness:</u>		Issued	43
	59	Revoked	3
		Refused	8
		Enquiry	5
<u>Giddiness and Fainting:</u>		Issued	28
	31	Refused	2
		Enquiry	1
<u>Mental Subnormality:</u>	1	Issued	1
<u>Unclassified:</u>		Issued	50
		Refused	9
	72	Revoked	2
		Driving Test	6
		Withdrawn	5
	<hr/>		
	571		

## CHIROPODY SERVICE

Chiropody Service continued to be available in County Council premises, surgeries of private Chiropodists, and in the homes of housebound persons, and provided by full-time and part-time staff and by private Chiropodists on a fee-per-treatment basis.

Staff at 31.12.73 included the Principal Chiropodist, 14 full-time Chiropodists and 20 part-time Chiropodists and 28 private Chiropodists working on fee-per-treatment basis.

Treatments were available at 40 Clinics and 29 private surgeries.

The impossibility of obtaining staff has resulted in a 2% fall in the number of treatments provided compared with previous year, the total treatments being 66,296 and estimated as for approximately 10% of the persons eligible for treatment.

There were no significant changes in 1973.

HEALTH CENTRES

In September 1973 a Health Centre in Gun Lane, Strood, was opened providing for eight general medical practitioners and a range of Local Health and School Health Services.

During the year building work commenced on two Health Centres in Rochester and Whitstable.

FAMILY PLANNING

1973 was the first full year of direct control by the County Council of the Family Planning Service and at the end of the year thirty-two clinics were opened compared with the twenty-seven functioning when the management of the Service was transferred from the Family Planning Association to the County Council in October 1972.

The free domiciliary service was extended to cover the Rochester area and arrangements were completed for a free Vasectomy service throughout the County to commence in January 1974.

NURSING SERVICES

STAFF

The number of field staff in post at 31st December 1973 expressed in whole time equivalent was:—

Health Visitors	194.5
District Midwives	100
District Nurses	251
District Nurse/Midwives	84
State Enrolled Nurses assisting Health Visitors	13
Nurses in Family Planning Clinics	9

At the end of 1972 the professional staff establishment for the management of the integrated nursing services was:—

- 1 Director of Nursing Services
- 2 Divisional Nursing Officers
- 4 Area Nursing Officers with special responsibilities for nurse training and health education
- 19 Area Nursing Officers and Nursing Officers, including one officer in each category concerned solely with the management of nursing services delegated to the Borough Council of Gillingham.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The numbers of deliveries attended by domiciliary midwives during 1972 and 1973 were:—

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
By County Midwives and Nurse Midwives	4,433	3,318
By other Domiciliary Midwives	1	

In 1973 there were 8,231 maternity patients transferred from Hospitals to domiciliary care within the first ten days of the puerperium.

During 1973 the number of deliveries undertaken by County Midwives under the ‘Domino’ scheme in Hospitals was 872.



Three 'maternal' deaths were investigated on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The Council exercised supervisory duties over practising midwives in other establishments as follows:—

	<u>1973</u>
N.H.S. Hospitals	348
Private Nursing Home	1

## DISTRICT NURSING

In 1973, district nurses made 873,572 nursing attendances to 80,733 patients compared with 834,586 attendances to 42,461 patients in 1972. The increase in patients is attributable to the opening of more health centres. Of these patients 34,017 were 65 years and over and they accounted for 61% of the attendances.

This was the first full year of operation for the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation Night Nursing Service in Kent and 159 patients received treatment. A similar system was introduced by the County in the Autumn for patients with terminal illnesses other than cancer. Twelve patients received night nursing under this scheme.

## REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES

A total of 73 general and 1 mental nursing home were registered in Kent at the end of 1973.

## TRAINING

106 nurses sat for the National Certificate in District Nursing. Six courses were run for hospital students doing the Community Care Option under the General Nursing Council syllabus 1969. Altogether 160 pupil midwives were attached to County midwives and completed their community training in 1973.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

The service is provided from eighteen ambulance stations, including one small voluntary station operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade under agency arrangements. After the 1st April, 1974, the ambulance station at Canterbury, which is provided jointly by the City Council and the County Council, will come under the jurisdiction of the Kent Area Health Authority.

The radio network has 7 main static stations, 244 two-way sets in ambulances and 90 in midwives' cars.

One member of the staff attended a driving instructor's course provided by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Courses of instruction were provided at the County Council's training schools at Maidstone and Canterbury for 44 ambulancemen who attended two weeks' course for new entrants to the Council's service, 99 ambulancemen who attended two weeks' refresher courses, and 6 officers attended courses of two weeks' duration. Fifty-three ambulancemen attended mandatory six weeks' courses at the Area Training School in Surrey to enable them to qualify for the Proficiency Certificate issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Experienced staff must now be given on week's training in hospital every three years and 106 ambulancemen attended hospital during 1973. Training is also given at stations to ensure regular practice of less used techniques.

The total number of emergency calls during the year was 25,261 compared to 24,149 in 1972 — an increase of 4.6%.

The Hospital Car Service, organised as an integral part of the Ambulance Service, carried 45,754 patients — an increase of 3,907 or 9.3%, in 1972.

The total number of patients carried in 1973 was 674,835 compared with 761,958 in 1972.

The industrial dispute which covered the period 12th October, 1973 to 21st January, 1974, had the effect of reducing the number of patients carried.

The following was the vehicle position at the end of 1973:—

	<u>Stretcher Ambulances</u>	<u>Sitting Case Ambulances</u>	<u>Dual-Purpose Ambulances</u>
Vehicles operated by the County Council	3	56	175
County vehicles allocated to Canterbury Joint Service	-	2	9
County vehicles operated by St. John Ambulance Brigade	-	-	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>185</u>

The work of the Service is summarised thus:—

<u>Ambulance Service Vehicles</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Total mileage	3,920,774	3,615,620
Number of patients carried	720,111	629,081
Number of emergency patients	23,103	23,456
Number of emergency calls	24,149	25,261
<u>Hospital Car Service</u>		
Total mileage	815,967	927,613
Number of patients carried	41,847	45,754
<u>Whole Service</u>		
Total mileage	4,736,741	4,543,233
Number of patients carried	761,958	674,835
Average miles per patient	6.2	6.7
Patients conveyed by rail	3,696	3,088
Patients conveyed by air	1	4
Babies born in ambulances	14	11





TABLE 2

Showing the number of cases of Infectious Disease among the Civil Population, notified  
in each of the DISTRICTS in the County of Kent during the year 1973

	Acute Encephalitis	Acute Menigitis	Acute Poliomyelitis	Anthrax	Cholera	Diphtheria	Dysentery (Amoebic or Bacillary)	Infective Jaundice	Leprosy	Leptospirosis	Malaria	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Paratyphoid Fever	Plague	Relapsing Fever	Scarlet Fever	Smallpox	Tetanus	Tuberculosis	Typhoid Fever	Typhus	Whooping Cough	Yellow Fever	Food Poisoning
URBAN DISTRICTS																									
Ashford .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	777	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Broadstairs .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	116	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	10	—
Chatham .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	496	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	11	—	5	—	9	—
Dartford .. ..	—	5	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	2	213	—	—	—	—	52	—	—	10	—	6	—	7	—
Deal .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Dover .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	9	—	3	—
Faversham .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	2	—
Folkestone .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	8	—	—	—	514	—	1	—	—	16	—	—	6	—	1	—	1	—
Gillingham .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	75	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	19	—	1	—	—	—
Gravesend .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	1	68	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	9	—	1	—	—	—
Herne Bay .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	180	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	—
Hythe .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	1	—	5	—	1	—
Lydd .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	62	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maidstone .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	359	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	15	—	1	—	13	—
Margate .. ..	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	330	9	—	—	—	4	—	—	7	—	2	—	43	—
New Romney .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	132	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Northfleet .. ..	—	5	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	1	77	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	—
Queenborough in Sheppey	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	41	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Ramsgate .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	205	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	2	—
Rochester .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	126	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	9	1	—	7	—	1
Sandwich .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sevenoaks .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	89	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1
Sittingbourne .. ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63	—	—	—	—	10	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Southborough .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Swanscombe .. ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	2	—
Tenterden .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tonbridge .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	205	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Tunbridge Wells .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	113	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	5	—	—	4	—	—
Whitstable .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	92	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	7
TOTALS IN URBAN DISTRICTS	1	43	—	—	1	—	20	47	—	—	6	4,657	11	2	—	—	217	—	2	156	2	—	47	—	106
RURAL DISTRICTS																									
Ashford, East .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	225	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Ashford, West .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	438	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Bridge-Blean .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	174	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	—
Cranbrook .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Dartford .. ..	1	4	—	—	—	—	2	11	—	—	—	302	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	9	—	—	6	—	27
Dover .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Eastry .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	6
Elham .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	169	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Hollingbourn .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	205	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	9
Maidstone .. ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	252	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	5	—	—	1	—	12
Malling .. ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	1	—	—	226	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	11	—	—	1	—	9
Romney Marsh .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	200	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Sevenoaks .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	211	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	9
Strood .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	357	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Swale .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	64	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Tenterden .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	79	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tonbridge .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	185	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	2	—	—	30	—	2
TOTALS IN RURAL DISTRICTS	4	9	—	—	—	—	15	23	1	1	2	3,173	—	—	—	—	67	—	—	58	4	—	43	—	81
TOTALS IN URBAN DISTRICTS	1	43	—	—	1	—	20	47	—	—	6	4,657	11	2	—	—	217	—	2	156	2	—	47	—	106
TOTALS IN COUNTY	5	52	—	—	1	—	35	70	1	1	8	7,830	11	2	—	—	284	—	2	214	6	—	90	—	187









REPORT OF THE  
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER  
on the  
HEALTH of the SCHOOL CHILD

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Particulars of schools on 31st December, 1973

						No. of Schools or Departments	No. of Pupils on the Rolls
Primary Schools	..	..	..	..	..	598	137,570
Secondary Schools	..	..	..	..	..	143	102,246
Nursery Schools	..	..	..	..	..	1	40
Special Schools	..	..	..	..	..	32	2,691
							<u>242,547</u>

CLINICS

On 31st December, 1973, the school health service provided the following Clinics:—

School Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Dental	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Dental (Mobile)	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Ophthalmic	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Speech Therapy	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Child Guidance	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Audiology	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

STAFF ENGAGED IN THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE  
AT THE END OF 1973

										Proportion of whole-time allocated to School Health Service %
<u>Central Office</u>										
Principal School Medical Officer:										
A. Elliott, M.D., D.P.H.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.0
Deputy Principal School Medical Officer:										
V. Mary Collins, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55.0
Principal Medical Officers:										
E. Mary Allen, M.B., B.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G., M.F.C.M.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65.0
Eirwen Griffith, M.B., B.S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75.0
Rosemary C. Hayball, M.B. B.Chir., M.F.C.M., D.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.0
Edith Heath, M.B., Ch.B.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90.0
Principal School Dental Officer:										
E. Millward, L.D.S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90.0
Orthodontic Dental Surgeons:										
R. J. Rose, B.D.S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100.0
J. S. Spencer, L.D.S.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100.0
Senior Speech Therapist:										
Mary La Frenais, L.C.S.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100.0
<u>Excepted District of Gillingham</u>										
Medical Officer of Health:										
Helen E. Mair, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.0
									No. of Officers	Aggregate of time given to School Health Service in terms of whole- time officers
<u>Other Staff</u>										
Departmental Medical Officers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	16.3
Dental Surgeons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	30.3
Educational Psychologists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	5.4
Social Workers in Child Guidance Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	8.6
Psychotherapists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2.8
Speech Therapists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	9.4
Dental Auxiliaries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3.9
Dental Surgery Assistants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	39.0
Nurses and Health Visitors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	232	50.4
Physiotherapists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0.7
<u>Sessionally engaged (including staff employed by R.H.B.)</u>										
Departmental Medical Officers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	3.7
Dental Surgeons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	2.7
Dental Auxiliaries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	0.9
Dental Surgery Assistants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1.6
Ophthalmologists and Refractionists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	2.2
Psychiatrists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3.8
Social Workers in Child Guidance Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	0.8
Psychotherapists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0.4
Speech Therapists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	4.1
Occupational Therapists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0.4

## MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Arrangements are for pupils to be examined on entry to school and on admission to secondary schools. Pupils aged eight years have tests of vision and hearing only, the latter being by audiometry. These children have a full medical examination if such need is suggested by their previous history, or if requested by a parent or teacher. Pupils aged fifteen years have tests of vision, but have a full examination only if previously found to have a defect which could affect their choice of employment. Nurses are employed to carry out the hearing tests, and children thereby suspected of hearing loss are followed up by medical officers.

The number of children examined during 1973 in the routine age groups was 39,221, which represents 16.2 per cent of the pupils on the school rolls. In addition 24,968 children had tests of vision and 15,159 tests of hearing, while 9,142 pupils found to have defects were re-examined.

### CLASSIFICATION OF THE PHYSICAL CONDITION

Two categories are provided, i.e. "Satisfactory" and "Unsatisfactory". It will be seen from the figures given in table 1(A) on page 24 that during 1973 only 0.85 per cent of the children examined in the routine age groups were considered to be "unsatisfactory".

### FOLLOWING UP

Where the parents attend at the routine medical inspection, advice is given and any defect is discussed by the doctor. Where necessary, Health Visitors visit homes to ensure that the advice of the doctor is carried out.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT

Table II on page 25 gives details of treatment given during the year.

Orthopaedic defects. Physiotherapy has also been provided at Valence School for physically handicapped pupils, Westerham.

No. of children examined by orthopaedic surgeon:	Spring Term	72
	Summer Term	75
	Autumn Term	66
No. of treatments given	1,716	

Enuresis — Under the supervision of Departmental Medical Officers or Child Guidance Clinics electrical appliances for the treatment of bed-wetting are loaned to the parents of affected children.

## CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE

The number of children referred during the year increased by 134. Staffing within the service was again increased minimally during the year, and as a result the number of children seen increased by 135 compared with the previous year.

The waiting list of children still to be diagnosed was reduced by 145 and for treatment following diagnosis by 29.

Clinic	No. of Patients sent during 1973	No. of Patients Diagnosed	Total Number of Interviews	Number Discharged				
				Consultation only	Condition unchanged	Condition improved	Failed to attend	Transferred to other Authority
Bexleyheath .. ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Canterbury .. ..	246	166	2,186	38	-	82	18	29
Chatham .. ..	345	188	3,595	26	3	64	70	21
Dartford .. ..	103	12	587	-	-	50	15	3
Dover .. ..	148	128	2,004	33	9	73	19	21
Gravesend .. ..	127	68	459	2	-	16	11	3
Maidstone .. ..	449	427	4,461	95	-	78	30	14
Ramsgate .. ..	183	111	2,142	33	-	49	24	11
Tunbridge Wells .. ..	162	128	1,447	66	7	32	1	1
Total .. ..	1,763	1,228	16,881	293	19	454	188	103

Total attendances: 11,036



## SPEECH THERAPY SERVICE

Children awaiting initial appointments at the end of 1973 numbered	.. ..	657 ( *452)
The total number of children seen by speech therapists during the year was	..	2623 (*2285)
In 15 speech clinics	.. .. .	1036 (*1449)
In 12 schools for educationally subnormal children (M)	.. .. .	489 ( *416)
In 10 schools for educationally subnormal children (S)	.. .. .	317 ( *249)
In Valence School for physically handicapped children	.. .. .	21 ( *20)
In the residential Speech Unit at the Laleham/Gap House Schools	.. ..	16 ( *19)
At Spring Gardens School, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells	.. .. .	10 ( *11)
Within peripatetic/advisory services	.. .. .	105 ( *121)
At the Gillingham Special Care Unit	.. .. .	13 ( * - )
Children whose cases were closed during the year numbered	.. .. .	792 ( *928)
but 176 of these children were not seen by a speech therapist		

It is interesting to note that an increasing number of pre-school children are being referred by paediatricians, doctors, and health visitors. The youngest child seen by a County speech therapist in 1973 was aged 9 months, this baby having been referred on account of feeding difficulties and potential speech delay. There would appear to be an increasing awareness on the part of other professional persons concerned with handicapped children that it is desirable for the speech therapist to be involved at an early stage in these childrens' development. Thus, the therapist is able to advise parents on the stimulus of verbal understanding and pre-linguistic skills, i.e. vocalisation and babble. As a result of the earlier referrals the population within the speech clinics tends to be at a much younger level than was the case a few years ago.

The speech therapy staff at the end of 1973 equated to 14.5 full-time therapists.

\* 1972 figures.

## DENTAL SERVICE

Mr. E. Millward, Principal School Dental Officer, reports.

The staffing position at the end of the year again shows a small increase, though during the year it has been lower, but recovered, due to new appointments being made, towards the close of the year.

The overall situation is little changed, though a slightly larger percentage of the children examined were found to be in need of treatment, and the number actually receiving treatment in our clinics again showed a rise. Most of the figures showing the work done are slightly better than for the previous year.

This is true also for work done in our dental laboratories where again the available manpower is unaltered except that one apprentice, having completed his apprenticeship, is now employed as a dental technician.

One factor which does not show in these figures is the increased importance being placed on preventive dentistry. The vast majority of our Dental Officers are now making use of the various solutions of fluoride available to apply this topically to the teeth. This, of course, must be a longer term policy, but it is hoped that these applications of fluoride solution will in time lessen the number of teeth which need attention. However, this can only be done for those children whose parents are interested enough in their dental well-being to see that they attend our clinics for treatment or, alternatively, receive this treatment privately elsewhere. It is a time-consuming procedure, and while effective, it obviously does not have the benefit of being available to all children in the County as would fluoridation of the water supply — which is still recommended.



Advice has continued to be given to the Education Committee as to the special educational treatment required by handicapped pupils.

### DEAF AND PARTIALLY HEARING

#### Assessment

Teams consisting of a Medical Officer and a Visiting Teacher of the Partially Hearing tested the hearing of 1,050 children.

Any school child with impaired hearing who was causing concern was retested and, if necessary, sent to an assessment panel. There is now a regular monthly hearing assessment clinic at Ashford, Canterbury, Chatham, Dartford, Gravesend, Sittingbourne, Swanley, and Tonbridge, and twice monthly at Maidstone and Thanet, in addition to the continuance of home visits where necessary by one of the five doctor/teacher assessing teams.

#### Combined Assessment Panels

The work of the panels continues, 41 children have been assessed and 108 reviewed by the Maidstone panel, 31 children assessed and 65 reviewed by the Canterbury panel and 6 assessed and 25 reviewed by the Tunbridge Wells panel. These panels make recommendations as to treatment, the issue of hearing aids, and the provision of special educational treatment.

TABLE 1  
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY  
(including Nursery and Special) SCHOOLS

Age groups inspected (by years of birth)	(A) Physical Conditions of Pupils Inspected									No. of pupils found not to warrant a medical examination (Gillingham)	Remainder of Area No. of pupils who had tests only of	
	Number of Pupils inspected			Number Satisfactory			Number Unsatisfactory					
	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of area	Total	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of area	Total	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of area	Total			
(1)		(2)			(3)			(4)			Vision	Hearing
1969 and later .. ..	39	273	312	37	271	308	2	2	4	-	-	-
1968 .. .. .	1,071	9,998	11,069	1,068	9,880	10,948	3	118	121	-	-	-
1967 .. .. .	721	7,957	8,678	719	7,924	8,643	2	33	35	3	78	-
1966 .. .. .	115	1,354	1,469	114	1,350	1,464	1	4	5	4	592	2,141
1965 .. .. .	50	611	661	50	608	658	-	3	3	2	8,536	8,330
1964 .. .. .	60	474	534	60	470	530	-	4	4	10	5,909	4,274
1963 .. .. .	34	372	406	34	371	405	-	1	1	14	540	414
1962 .. .. .	222	5,944	6,166	221	5,865	6,086	1	79	80	8	181	-
1961 .. .. .	686	6,787	7,473	682	6,728	7,410	4	59	63	6	66	-
1960 .. .. .	256	1,283	1,539	256	1,270	1,526	-	13	13	5	8	-
1959 .. .. .	11	162	173	11	161	172	-	1	1	3	760	-
1958 and earlier .. ..	15	726	741	15	722	737	-	4	4	-	8,298	-
Total .. .. .	3,280	35,941	39,221	3,267	35,620	38,887	13	321	334	55	24,968	15,159
Percentage of column (2)				99.61	99.12	99.15	0.39	0.88	0.85			

(B) Other Inspections

	Gillingham	Remainder	Total
Number of Special Inspections .. .. .	2,112	1,698	3,810
Number of Reinspections .. .. .	1,348	7,794	9,142
Total .. .. .	3,460	9,492	12,952

(C) Infestation with Vermin

Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by the school nurse or other authorised persons .. .. .	19,719	241,419	261,138
Total number of individual pupils found to be infested .. .. .	260	1,030	1,290
Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944) .. .. .	-	48	48
Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944).. .. .	-	-	-

TABLE II  
TREATMENT OF PUPILS

	Number of Pupils Treated		
	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of Area	Total
<b>EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT</b>			
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint .. ..	6	—	6
Errors of refraction, including squint .. .. .	739	11,694	12,433
Total .. .. .	745	11,694	12,439
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed .. ..	218	3,402	3,620
<b>ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS</b>			
Pupils treated at schools for postural defects .. .. .	92	71	163
<b>DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table I (D))</b>			
Ringworm — Scalp .. .. .	—	7	7
— Body .. .. .	—	—	—
Scabies .. .. .	—	16	16
Impetigo .. .. .	—	10	10
Other skin diseases .. .. .	2	7	9
Total .. .. .	2	40	42
<b>OTHER ADVICE GIVEN</b>			
Pupils with minor ailments .. .. .	20	1,340	1,360
<b>CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT</b>			
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics under arrangements made by the Authority			2,502
<b>SPEECH THERAPY</b>			
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists under arrangements made by the Authority			2,422

TABLE III  
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

	Excepted District of Gillingham	Remainder of Area	Total
<b>ATTENDANCES AND TREATMENT</b>			
First Visits .. .. .	1,201	30,034	31,235
Subsequent .. .. .	1,935	59,817	61,752
Total .. .. .	3,136	89,851	92,987
Additional Courses of Treatment .. .. .	172	3,408	3,580
Fillings in Permanent Teeth .. .. .	1,456	44,348	45,804
Fillings in Deciduous Teeth .. .. .	917	23,696	24,613
Permanent Teeth filled .. .. .	1,292	38,174	39,466
Deciduous Teeth filled .. .. .	813	21,629	22,442
Permanent Teeth extracted .. .. .	93	4,555	4,648
Deciduous Teeth extracted .. .. .	305	12,701	13,006
General Anaesthetics .. .. .	26	4,522	4,548
Emergencies .. .. .	330	4,519	4,849
Number of pupils x-rayed .. .. .	57	5,303	5,360
Prophylaxis .. .. .	77	14,538	14,615
Teeth otherwise conserved .. .. .	243	6,491	6,734
Number of teeth root filled .. .. .	—	693	693
Inlays .. .. .	1	8	9
Crowns .. .. .	3	84	87
Courses of treatment completed .. .. .	1,545	27,514	29,059
<b>Orthodontics</b>			
Cases remaining from previous .. .. .	51	943	994
New cases commenced during year .. .. .	14	503	517
Cases completed during year .. .. .	15	334	349
Cases discontinued during year .. .. .	4	26	30
Number of removable appliances fitted .. .. .	24	981	1,005
Number of fixed appliances fitted .. .. .	—	27	27
Pupils referred to Hospital Consultant .. .. .	1	65	66
<b>Prosthetics</b>			
Pupils supplied with full upper or full lower dentures first time .. .. .	—	6	6
Pupils supplied with other dentures first time .. .. .	—	112	112
Number of dentures supplied .. .. .	—	119	119
<b>Anaesthetics</b>			
General anaesthetics given by Dental Officer .. .. .	—	1,525	1,525
<b>Inspections</b>			
First inspection at school — number of pupils .. .. .	2,511	75,414	77,925
First inspection at clinic — number of pupils .. .. .	1,147	22,313	23,460
Number of above found to require treatment .. .. .	2,146	56,768	58,914
Number offered treatment .. .. .	2,136	48,296	50,432
Pupils re-inspected at school clinic .. .. .	128	7,950	8,078
Number found to require treatment .. .. .	83	6,278	6,361
<b>Sessions</b>			
Sessions devoted to treatment .. .. .	380	12,989	13,369
Sessions devoted to inspections .. .. .	10	543	553
Sessions devoted to Health Education .. .. .	—	88	88



